

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1-72

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SUBJECT: BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS

REF: NASSAU 1072

1. PRESS REPORTS AND A HOUSE MEMBER CONFIRMS THAT DURING DEBATE ON WHITE PAPER NOVEMBER 1 PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT GOBI PROPOSED EXTENDING BAHAMAS' TERRITORIAL WATERS FROM PRESENT THREE-MILE LIMIT TO 12 MILES, BUT SAID THIS COULD NOT BE SETTLED AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE LATER AT THE U.N. OR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

2. NOTING THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FISHERIES AND SEABED MINERAL RESOURCES, HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE ALONG THE LINES OF THE WHITE PAPER, MAKING PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CASE OF FIJI. SPEAR  
BT

#1148

~~SECRET~~